

## Pollution Prevention means "Source Reduction"

- Pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever practicable.
- Use least toxic materials and recycle to reduce pollution.
- Identify waste products from your business and evaluate them for possible reduction.
- Prioritize waste reductions by assessing cost, ease of implementation and savings.
- Reduce wastes by training your employees on Best Management Practices.
- Reevaluate your efforts on a regular basis.
- Purchase durable goods rather than disposable products.

## For More Information

**University of California, Cooperative  
Extension**

**(858) 694-2845**

**Mission Resource Conservation District**

**(760) 728-1332**

**County of San Diego**

**[www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds)**

County of San Diego  
Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures  
5555 Overland Ave. Suite 3101  
San Diego CA 92123



## WATER QUALITY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



### Participating Jurisdictions

*County of San Diego*

*Carlsbad*

*Chula Vista*

*Coronado*

*Del Mar*

*El Cajon*

*Encinitas*

*Escondido*

*Imperial Beach*

*La Mesa*

*Lemon Grove*

*National City*

*Oceanside*

*Poway*

*San Diego*

*San Marcos*

*Santee*

*Solana Beach*

*Vista*

*San Diego Regional Airport Authority*

*San Diego Unified Port District*

*Contact the jurisdiction where your facilities are located to  
learn your local requirements. Call the Project Clean Water  
Hotline to report spills and discharges.*

**(888)-846-0800**

**Project Clean Water**

**[www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org)**



Agriculture, Weights & Measures

## WATER QUALITY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



***Protecting Water Quality is  
Everybody's Business***



**County of San Diego  
Agricultural  
Water Quality Program**

## Sources of Pollutants

The County of San Diego's Watershed Protection Ordinance requires commercial, industrial, municipal and residential sectors to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect local water resources. Many of these BMPs are easy to adopt and are applicable to agriculture. Material and waste storage, over-watering, fertilization, pesticide use, used motor oil, as well as sediment from grading activities are found in both the agricultural and urban settings. Properly storing hazardous wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, paints, greenwaste and trash is a responsibility we all share. The County's Watershed Protection Ordinance requires BMPs where we work, play and live.



## Housekeeping and Storage Practices

BMPs include good housekeeping practices such as proper disposal of green waste, trash and debris.

- Keep trash containers clean and closed.
- Compost greenwaste, recycle or haul to an approved landfill.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Keep materials and wastes "off the ground and covered."



## Awareness and Responsibility

*It is important that all residents of our region be aware and understand the impact their activities can have on our water resources. Together we share a responsibility for protecting, restoring and enhancing our bays, beaches, lagoons, and rivers by eliminating or reducing pollution sources.*

## Erosion and Sediment

Soil particles or sediment harms aquatic life, destroys habitat, and carries other pollutants with it. Erosion can be reduced by protecting slopes and banks with erosion control fabric and by planting groundcover. Installing native and drought resistant plants will save water and reduce erosion caused by irrigation runoff.



## Fertilizers

The excessive use of fertilizers in both agricultural and urban settings is the main cause of nutrient-rich runoff entering the stormwater system. Nutrients cause excessive growth of algae which consumes oxygen, making it unavailable for fish and aquatic organisms. Use fertilizer according to the needs of the species planted. Use slow-release or organic-based formulas based on the plant's nutrient needs. Applying precise amounts in a timely manner reduces the potential for pollution and promotes healthy and consistent plant growth. Store fertilizers indoors when possible or store them "off the ground and covered."



## Pesticide Use

Pesticide alternatives are available for many pest problems. On the farm or around the home or office, many beneficial insects are available to help control pests thereby reducing the need for pesticides that may end up in our waterways. Pesticides should only be used when non-chemical controls are ineffective or pests are reaching intolerable levels. Always mix and apply pesticides according to the label. Use "least toxic" formulations and only enough to achieve the desired result. Store pesticides in a locked, posted building and properly dispose of empty containers. Unused household pesticides should be disposed at a household hazardous waste collection facility.



## Irrigation & Illegal Discharges

Over-watering is wasteful and carries dissolved pollutants and sediment to our waterways. Around the home or on the farm, use water-efficient irrigation systems, such as drip or low-output sprinkler heads, that deliver precise volumes of water to plant root zones. Develop watering schedules based on historical or actual weather data.

Illicit connections and illegal discharges must be eliminated, even if the connection was established pursuant to a valid permit and was legal at the time it was constructed. An illicit connection is one that conveys water containing pollutants directly to a storm drain, gutter or stream.



Agricultural Water Quality Program  
Phone: 858-694-3122

